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7 August 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director/Central Reference

SUBJECT : Proposed Monthly Index of Chinese Accessions (MICA)

1. In a release in English printed by the New China News Agency, Peiping, January 4, 1958, an account is given of extensive research programs underway at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. This description and other sources attest to the fact that Red China is making a determined effort to foster scientific and technical development.

2. The intelligence community is limited in its ability to digest and assimilate new Chinese information appearing in the literature. We have good acquisition and exploitation programs but non-linguists have no way in which to systematically tap the growing body of information available in Chinese publications. The Library of Congress, Harvard Library, Hoover Library, Department of Agriculture Library, and others are receiving an increasing flow of Chinese publications which for the most part remains uncataloged and untranslated.

3. This situation is analogous to one which faced the intelligence community ten years ago with respect to Russian publications. Then, it was decided to sponsor the preparation of a Monthly Index of Russian Accessions (MIRA); and, later an East European Accession Index (EEAI). Both publications have since proven their value to academicians and researchers in and outside the intelligence community. More than 150 libraries cooperate with the Library of Congress in both projects.

4. The desirability of starting a Monthly Index of Chinese Accessions along the lines of the MIRA and the EEA was discussed recently with Library of Congress officials. They are receptive to the idea and very much interested in seeing it done. A temporary estimate of the annual cost of the operation was given as \$75,000 to \$100,000.

5. It is suggested that PROCIAC be asked to study the advisability of supporting a Monthly Index of Chinese Accessions at the Library of Congress. A PROCIAC staff inquiry into the current and potential advantages of undertaking such a publication would be an excellent way to confirm the need and measure community interest.

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Special Assistant

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CIA Librarian

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